

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

ANGEL TORRES,

Petitioner,

vs.

DWIGHT NEVEN, *et al.*,

Respondents.

2:16-cv-00443-GMN-CWH

ORDER

This habeas matter comes before the Court on petitioner's letter to the Magistrate Judge, which has been docketed as a request or motion (ECF No. 17) for respondents to forward documents to petitioner.

Petitioner asserts that he has not received the service copies of respondents' filings in ECF Nos. 15 and 16. He seeks an opportunity to respond to both filings.

To expedite matters, the Court will direct the Clerk to send petitioner additional copies of those filings.

Petitioner should note the following, however.

First, petitioner should not combine multiple different motions together in a single filing as he did in his November 15, 2016, filing (ECF Nos. 13 and 14). Nor should he combine an opposition, traverse, or reply with other filings as he did in that filing. Combined filings risk confusion in docketing, which occurred in this instance.

Second, what petitioner filed within ECF Nos. 13 and 14 is not a traverse. Rule 5(e) of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases now provides that a petitioner may file a reply – not a traverse – to an answer. What petitioner filed, however, is not even a reply. A reply

1 is filed to an answer by the respondents, but respondents here instead filed a motion to
2 dismiss. Petitioner's "traverse" thus instead in truth is a response or opposition to the motion
3 to dismiss.

4 Third, petitioner may not respond to respondents' reply (ECF No. 15) to his opposition
5 to their motion to dismiss without leave of court first obtained. Basically, under the rules, the
6 party that files a motion gets the last word on the motion, in their reply. Local Rule LR 7-2
7 thus limits briefing on a motion to a supporting memorandum of points and authorities, a
8 response by the adverse party, and a reply by the movant. Local Rule LR 7-2(b) further
9 specifically provides in pertinent part: "Surreplies are not permitted without leave of court;
10 motions for leave to file a surreply are discouraged." If petitioner files a surreply without
11 leave, the filing may be stricken. In all events, respondents will get the last word on their
12 motion.

13 Fourth, petitioner may file a reply, however, to respondents' opposition to his motion
14 for appointment of counsel. The Court will extend petitioner's time to file a reply.

15 Fifth, petitioner must present all requests for relief by motion rather than by letter.
16 Requests presented in letters may be disregarded by the Court and Clerk.

17 IT THEREFORE IS ORDERED that petitioner's motion (ECF No. 17) for respondents
18 to forward documents to petitioner is GRANTED IN PART to the extent consistent with the
19 remaining provisions of this order.

20 IT FURTHER IS ORDERED that the Clerk of Court shall SEND petitioner another copy
21 of ECF Nos. 15 and 16.

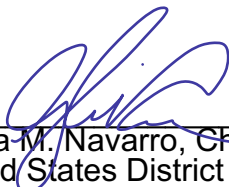
22 IT FURTHER IS ORDERED that the Clerk shall correct the docket to reflect that
23 petitioner's November 15, 2016, filing includes a response to respondents' motion (ECF No.
24 10) to dismiss and that the Clerk further shall review the correctness of the docket entry for
25 ECF No. 15.¹

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28 ¹The entry perhaps may need to cross-reference to ECF No. 10 rather than ECF No. 13.

1 IT FURTHER IS ORDERED that the time for petitioner to dispatch a reply to
2 respondents' opposition to his motion for appointment of counsel is extended up to and
3 including twenty-one (21) days from entry of this order.

4 DATED: December 29, 2016

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9 Gloria M. Navarro, Chief Judge
10 United States District Court
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